

Fortunately, 70 percent of PIDD patients are able to maintain their health through regular infusions of a plasma product known as intravenous immunoglobulin, IGIV. IGIV helps bolster the immune system and provides critical protection against infection and disease.

I want to share with my colleagues the story of one family in Washington State affected by PIDD, the Trump family, who have common variable immune deficiency, CVID, one of the more common forms of primary immune deficiency diseases. Gary Trump's first wife, Tracee, carried CVID for at least 18 years prior to diagnosis. During that time, she suffered repetitive infections, even life-threatening disease, but was never properly diagnosed. In 1993, 8 days after the birth of their second son, Christian, Tracee was struck down by viral encephalitis, and suffered through 4 years of pain, amnesia, and total disability prior to passing away in 1997. Their first son, Darren, also had numerous infections, almost from birth. Within a year of Tracee's diagnosis, Darren was tested and found to have CVID. Christian, who nearly died of viral pneumonia at 2 months of age, was also diagnosed with CVID.

The Trump family is not unique with the difficulty and delay in diagnosis of primary immune deficiency disease. Despite the recent progress in PIDD research, the average length of time between the onset of symptoms in a patient and a definitive diagnosis of PIDD is 9.2 years. In the interim, those afflicted may suffer repeated and serious infections and possibly irreversible damage to internal organs. That is why it is critical that we raise awareness about these illnesses within the general public and the health care community.

I am proud to have the opportunity to recognize the week of April 19 as National Primary Immune Deficiency Diseases Awareness Week. I encourage my colleagues to work with us to help improve the quality of life for PIDD patients and their families.

TRIBUTE TO SISTER MARY EILEEN WILLHELM, RSM

• Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I rise today to give tribute to Sister Mary Eileen Wilhelm, RSM, who has served as the chief executive officer at Mercy Medical for more than 36 years. She has led Mercy Medical in its mission to care for the sick, the injured, and the dying since she took on the role of CEO in 1967. Her passion for healthcare has led her to continually do what is best for the patients, the residents, and their families.

Since its founding in 1949 by the Sisters of Mercy, Mercy Medical has been a leader among healthcare providers in Alabama's Mobile Bay area. As CEO of Mercy, Sister Mary Eileen has remained focused on continuing the healing ministry of Jesus in the compas-

sionate and excellent tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. This has helped Mercy grow from a small convalescent home by the bay in Daphne, into an integrated network of healthcare options throughout southwest Alabama and recognized throughout the Nation for its innovative procedures.

Mercy Medical works with patients of all ages, from the very young to the most senior, to maximize their functional abilities and return all patients to their highest possible level of wellness. In addition, Mercy Medical is renowned for its hospice services, providing quality living when individuals face the end of this Earthly existence. Working with physicians, interdisciplinary medical teams establish individualized treatment plans which direct overall courses of intensive therapy, specialized clinical services and/or other patient care and activities. Most importantly, the Mercy Medical team always ministers to not only the physical needs but offers comfort and healing to the spirit as well.

Catherine McAuley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy, has inspired Sister Eileen to be strong in the face of adversity, calm in the midst of crisis, and willing to take risks. This has allowed her to lead the Mercy Medical staff to identify and meet the healthcare needs of the weak and vulnerable. Additionally, due to her humility, tenacity, and commitment, Mercy Medical is recognized as a leader in the healthcare community. One of the core values of Mercy Medical is the empowerment of women, and Sister Mary Eileen, as an empowered woman, has led the fight to eradicate poverty nationally by taking on the cause of the poor to our Nation's capital. Indeed, her sincerity and power of persuasion, which I have directly felt, is remarkable. It is clearly a product of her selfless commitment to her vision for others.

On behalf of the United States Senate and the people of Alabama, I would like to recognize Sister Mary Eileen for giving more than 44 years of love and devotion to the sick, injured, and dying. She has been truly a blessing for the people of south Alabama, and her legacy will live on forever.●

THE 440TH BIRTHDAY OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE — RECOGNIZING THE SHAKESPEARE FESTIVALS IN CALIFORNIA

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the greatest writers the world has ever known: William Shakespeare. As you may well know, this week marks the 440th birthday of the great author and playwright. As a foremost literary talent of his and every age thereafter, his works have stood the test of time and are still widely celebrated over four centuries later.

Scholars credit William Shakespeare with authoring 37 plays and 154 sonnets over the course of his life. These works

continue to both move and entertain today, as they did the people of his time. His plays can be found performed daily the world round in their traditional fashion, and many of his works have been adapted to accommodate modern issues and themes. As a result, his genius and creative achievement have transcended time and touched people of all generations.

I am proud that my State of California shares a large population who take the time to celebrate the life and work of Shakespeare. California is home to some of the largest organizations dedicated to nourishing their communities through both artistic endeavors and educational programs celebrating the Bard's work. Combined, California Shakespeare festivals perform for more than 95,000 Californians annually.

It is my pleasure to congratulate the California Shakespeare Festival on celebrating their 30th anniversary this year. Beginning with a few Berkeley residents performing "Hamlet" to local community members, the California Shakespeare Festival has developed into a successful production company that runs four Shakespearian theaters. Through their Artistic Learning Initiative, the festival seeks to inspire and educate young artists of all backgrounds through the gift of Shakespeare's works.

Since 1983, when I was mayor of San Francisco, the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival has brought the works of Shakespeare to large and diverse audiences through their Free Shakespeare in the Park program. In cooperation with the Oakland-East Bay and Silicon Valley Shakespeare Festivals, the San Francisco Shakespeare Festival brings innovative and inspiring professional performances to over 50,000 each summer.

I also recognize the contributions of the American Friends of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust to bringing the legacy of William Shakespeare to Washington, DC, with their gift of eight sculptures to the Folger Shakespeare Library. Sculpted by artist Greg Wyatt, the eight pieces are half-size replicas of the Shakespearian-inspired artwork in the Great Garden in Stratford-upon-Avon.

I ask that my colleagues join me in celebrating Shakespeare's birthday and the inspirational and lasting works he contributed to our world. William Shakespeare's poems and plays continue to inspire countless generations of young writers, further the world's love of the written word as well as performances, and reminds us all to "be not afraid of greatness."●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:52 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate: